

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image decoding apparatus for performing a decoding process under a prescribed coding method, comprising:

~~decoding means for performing~~ a decoder configured to perform the decoding process on picture data encoded with the coding method; and

~~a control means for controlling unit configured to control the decoding means;~~  
~~wherein, in a fast playback mode, said control means controls said decoding means by~~  
~~selectively performing decoder based on types of a mode signal received by the control~~  
unit such that the decoder:

performs a first process as part of the decoding process to extract and decode an I-picture and ~~following~~ prescribed pieces of P-pictures based on a location ~~basis of the I-picture locating at a desired position in the picture data[[,]]~~ when the  
received mode signal is of a first type;

performs a second process as part of the decoding process to decode ~~only spatial prediction~~ a macroblock in the picture data based on a prediction ~~method~~  
signal obtained through reversible encoding[[,]] when the received mode signal is of a  
second type; and

performs a third process to decode as part of the decoding process [[only]]  
direct current components of transformation coefficients with transformation coding, ~~or a~~  
~~fourth process that is a combination of the second and third processes~~ when the  
received mode signal is of a third type.

2. (Currently Amended) The image decoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the I-picture and the P-pictures are in a simple playback frame, and the[[said]] control unit controls ~~said decoding means so as~~ the decoder to decode the I-picture and each of the P-pictures ~~composing the simple playback frames~~ in order[[,]] without decoding a part of the picture data included after the simple playback frames, ~~in a case where frame when the first type~~ the fast playback mode is fast forward playback, ~~and controls~~ ~~said decoding means so as to find a part before the simple playback frames,~~ sequentially decode the I-picture and each of the P-pictures ~~composing the simple playback frames,~~ and output the simple playback frames in a reverse order of a ~~decoding order, in a case where the fast playback mode is fast backward playback.~~

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) An image decoding method for performing a decoding process under a prescribed coding method, the image decoding method being executed by a decoder and comprising:

detecting types of a mode signal used to control the image decoding method performed by the decoder;

~~wherein, in a fast playback mode,~~ performing, by using the decoder, a first process to extract and decode an I-picture and ~~following~~ prescribed pieces of P-pictures based on a location basis of the I-picture ~~locating at a desired position~~ in picture data encoded with the coding method[[,]] when the mode signal is detected to be of a first type;

performing, by using the decoder, a second process to decode ~~only spatial~~  
~~prediction~~ a macroblock in the picture data based on a prediction ~~method~~ signal  
obtained through reversible encoding[[,]] ~~when the mode signal is detected be of a~~  
~~second type; and~~

performing a third process to decode [[only]] direct current components of  
transformation coefficients with transformation coding, ~~or a fourth process that is a~~  
~~combination of the second and third processes is selectively performed~~ when the mode  
signal is detected to be of a third type.

5. (Currently Amended) The image decoding method according to claim 4, wherein the  
I-picture and the P-pictures are in a simple playback frame, and ~~:-in a case where the~~  
fast playback mode is fast forward playback, the I-picture and ~~each of the P-pictures~~  
~~composing the simple playback frames~~ are decoded in order[[,]] without decoding a part  
of the picture data included after the simple playback frames frame when the first type is  
a fast forward playback; ~~and in a case where the fast playback mode is fast backward~~  
~~playback, a part before the simple playback frames is found, the I-picture and each of~~  
~~the P-pictures composing the simple playback frames are decoded in order, and the~~  
~~simple playback frames are decoded in a reverse order of a decoding order.~~

6. (Canceled).

7. (New) The image decoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the I-picture and the P-pictures are in a simple playback frame, and when the first type is a fast backward playback the control unit controls the decoder to:

find a part before the simple playback frame;

sequentially decode the I-picture and the P-pictures in the simple playback frame; and

output the simple playback frame in a reverse order of a decoding order.

8. (New) The image decoding method according to claim 4, wherein the I-picture and the P-pictures are in a simple playback frame, and when the first type is a fast backward playback the image decoding method further comprises:

finding a part before the simple playback frame;

decoding, sequentially, the I-picture and the P-pictures in the simple playback frame; and

outputting the simple playback frame in a reverse order of a decoding order.

9. (New) The image decoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the decoder performs a fourth process as part of the decoding process when the received mode signal is of a fourth type, the fourth process being a combination of the second and third processes.

10. (New) The image decoding method according to claim 4 further comprising performing a fourth process when the mode signal is detected to be of a fourth type, the fourth process being a combination of the second and third processes.